

Message Text

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17

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 L-03 DOTE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /064 W

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R 102122Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7987

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3796

E.O. 11652: N/AOS

TAGS: BGEN, HO

SUBJECT: USED BUSES

REF STATE 195596

1. ACCORDING TO TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVES, USED BUSES HAVE BEEN PURCHASED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS THROUGH THE TRADE OPPORTUNITY SYSTEM. COMMERCIAL SECTION TEGUCIGALPA HAS PROMOTED PURCHASES AMOUNTING TO THE AMOUNT OF \$1.5 MILLION ANNUALLY.

2. PURCHASERS REQUIRE EQUIPMENT IN EXCELLENT MECHANICAL CONDITION. TYPES PREFERRED ARE LARGE SIZE "BLUE BIRDS" AND SIMILAR CONFIGURATIONS. MODELS OF INTEREST AT PRESENT ARE 1970 - 1973 WITH SIZES DEPENDENT UPON LOCAL OR OVER HIGHWAY USE. SPARE PARTS NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM BUT COSTS HIGH. OPERATING COSTS NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM.

3. USED BUSES HAVE GENERALLY BEEN PURCHASED IN NEW ORLEANS, SEVERAL CITIES IN OKLAHOMA, AND CHICAGO. THERE IS A PREFERENCE FOR QUALITY U.S. EQUIPMENT. IMPORTS DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1970 - 438, 1971 - 511, 1972 - 526, AND 1973 - 568. THESE FIGURES APPLY TO TOTAL BUS IMPORTS AND INCLUDE MUCH NEW EQUIPMENT OF URBAN SIZES (10-14 PASSENGERS). JAPANESE SUPPLIERS DOMINATE SMALL URBAN BUS MARKET.

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